Sheffield Hallam University

An analysis of migration patterns of radiography undergraduates and return on investment

WRIGHT, Chris

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Migration Patterns of Radiography Undergraduates: Preliminary Analysis

Dr Chris Wright

Senior Lecturer, Sheffield Hallam University

Introduction

This report is supplementary to the SCoR 'Analysis of Students and Recent Graduates Survey 2012'.

An identical population was invited to supply additional information via a similar 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire. 82 completed responses were received. All Universities offering undergraduate training for Radiographers were represented.

Results

1) Demographics

80% of the responses were from Diagnostic and 20% Therapy.

70% were female and 29% male.

55% of the population had studied **Biology** beyond O-level, 35% Chemistry, 32% Maths, and 18% Physics.

35% of the population graduated with 1st Class Honours, 51% with a 2:1, and 13% with a 2:2.

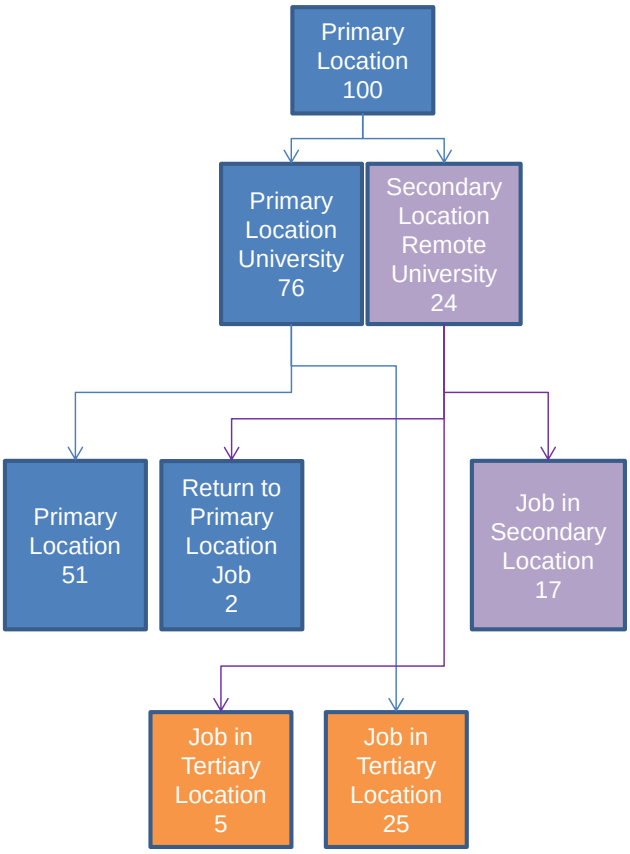
No statistically significant correlations could be identified between age, gender, educational route to HE, and degree classification.

2) Migration Patterns

75.6% of the population elected to study at the closest University to their home location. Of these, 67.1% gained employment upon graduation in the same home location, whilst 32.9% moved away to other parts of the UK.

Of the 24.4% of the population who elected to study at Universities outside their local area, 70.4% gained employment upon graduation close to this location. 8.5% returned back to their home location and 21.1% migrated on to a different city in the UK.

The chart below models the effect these findings have on a population of 100 people;



The evidence demonstrates how higher education affects population size. For every 100 students who enter University, only 53 will still live in the local area at the point of first post-employment. Only 2 return to their primary location having moved away to study. Of the 24 students who moved away to study, 17 will gain employment close to their University location. 30 students will ultimately reside in a tertiary location remote from their home or University cities.

Discussion

The logic for students entering higher educations have changed. Traditionally high flying students perhaps sought to attend the best Universities their grades would allow and went on to develop careers with little regard for geography. Today expectations are very different. The results have demonstrated that 76% per cent of undergraduates attend the nearest University to their home. Reflecting on the Society of Radiographers Annual Graduate Survey (2012) which highlighted that finance was the biggest concern for students, this finding is perhaps of no surprise. Whilst the 18.3% response rate could affect the reliability of the results being biased towards those with good degree awards, it is unlikely to have had an effect on where people live and first post location. Where graduates have moved locations to gain

work, migration patterns in England are more prominent east/west rather than north/south; in Wales no net change can be demonstrated; in Scotland a migration to England is evident. International students who come to study in the UK at undergraduate level almost exclusively stay in this country and tend to settle in England regardless of their University location: Ireland forms the largest immigrant population.

The evidence suggests that the population of University cities is likely to grow because whilst still conceptually they lose around twenty four per cent of students at the entry point to Higher Education, a small proportion return home, numbers are boosted by the seventy per cent of graduates who stay in the area. An implication for clinical practice and the NHS is that recruitment of newly qualified Radiographers is likely to continue to be more difficult in areas remote from University cities. This situation is exacerbated in areas where the number of graduates per University is far less than the number of available jobs in the area. In terms of student recruitment, Universities are seemingly justified in focussing on local recruitment as this provides the dominate proportion of their cohorts.